COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

BUDGET SESSION OF 1101

Thursday, the $\frac{\text{21st of Karkadagam 1101.}}{\text{5th of August 1926.}}$

The last meeting of the budget session of 1101 began in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, at 11-30 a. m. on the 21st of Karkadagam 1101, corresponding to the 5th of August 1926, under the presidency of the Diwan. Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar and Messrs. Lonappan Chakkola, P. Munda Vaidyan and M. K. Raman were absent.

President's remarks.

President.—I wish to make a statement, before we commence the regular business of the day. The Demands under certain important departments, namely, "Medical" and "Public Works," have still to be considered; and though we have started with the Demand under "Education;" it is not likely to be over by five o'clock to-day, if we proceed at the rate we had been proceeding during the last 6 days. In order that an opportunity may be afforded for discussion of the Demand under "Medical" and "Public Works", I think it necessary to prescribe a time limit in respect of the demands that we are going to make. So far as the Demand under "Education" is concerned, I wish to bring the discussion to a close at 1-30 p. m. Soon after that, we take up the Medical Department, and the discussion on that head will be brought to a close at 3-45 p.m. And then, we will take up the Public Works Department, and that will keep us engaged till 5 p. m. If there is time left, and the discussion of the Public Works Department is over before 5 p. m., I may allow time to the Member for Cranganur to discuss the two cut motions on the Cranganur budget. I cannot say anything about that now. According to rules, we have to bring the discussion to a close at 5 p. m. this evening, and then all the Demands will have to be put to votes forthwith, and the session brought to a close. I never thought that so much time will be taken up in the discussion of the various Demands during this session, having regard to my experience during the last budget session. We were then able to get through the work within 9 days, and we

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have had no occasion to sit on the 10th day. Practically, we had a sitting of only 9 days for discussion. Now, I have known how the discussion is proceeding, and I will arrange the business in such a way next year that important Demands are placed in the fore-front, and a good part of the discussion is entered upon those important Demands. Now, we shall proceed with the first item of business—Questions and Answers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The dearth of drainage canals in the Cranganur Taluk.

242. Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Is the Government aware of the fact that there is a dearth of drainage canals in the Cranganur Taluk?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—No. More canals for drainage purposes, the deepening of some and petty repairs to some others appear to be beneficial.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to consider the Report of the Road Committee ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes, Sir.

The Special Finance Committee.

243. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons that led them to order that the Special Finance Committee should hold its sittings in camera ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Government considered it expedient that the Committee should hold its sittings in camera.

244. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—Is the Government aware that the sittings of such Committees in British India were generally held publicly?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.— The Government have no definite information.

245. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to state their reasons to stipulate that only Heads of Departments should be examined?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It appeared to the Government the right course to adopt.

246. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to state why non-official evidence has been restricted?

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